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168. *Improvement of roads.*

Mr. A Krishna Pillai said that the roads from Kottayam to Kumaragom and to Aimanom should be improved.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the road from Kottayam to Kumaragom, Government find that there is already canal communication between the two places. It cannot therefore be said that the road is an urgent necessity. Government cannot sanction it.

In regard to the village road from Kottayam to Aimanom, the Chief Engineer says that, even if a road is made, it will practically be under water during the rainy months of the year. It is therefore not advisable to expend money on this road.

169. *Zilla Court at Kottayam.*

Mr. R. Veloo Pillai urged the necessity for establishing a Zilla Court at Kottayam and said that one of the Judges in the Alleppey District Court might be transferred to that place.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion of the member to transfer one of the two Judges of the Alleppey District Court to Kottayam will be referred to the High Court for opinion.

170. *Salt bankshall at Kottayam*

The member also asked for a salt bankshall at Kottayam.

Dewan's reply.—Recently, the policy of Government has been to develop business at all the salt depôts, and as much as possible, to leave the transport of salt to the interior and its retail sale, to private enterprise. It is in accordance with this policy that Government began to sell salt freely at the depôts. In consequence, many of the bankshalls became obsolete and were abolished. The Kottayam bankshall was one of them. From the figures before me, I find that this bankshall was abolished only after the sales in it went down to such an extent that there was no justification for continuing it. Ordinarily, traders may be trusted to bring and sell salt for local consumption. Government would leave a thing like that to private trade.

171. *Representation of Associations at the Assembly.*

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila spoke of the Agricultural Association at Changanacheri, of which he was the representative, and prayed for the permanent recognition of the Association for representation at the future sessions of the Popular Assembly.

Mr. W. John made a similar request for the Travancore and Cochin Roman CatholicAssociation, Kottayam.

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Dewan's reply.—In regard to the representation of the Associations, Government have the right to revise the rules from time to time. The entire body of the rules for the election of members to the Assembly will undergo careful revision before we meet again. In regard to all the Associations now returning members an enquiry will be made as to their constitution, their work, their usefulness, and so forth. That enquiry will be made in regard to your Associations also. And if Government are satisfied on those points, the privilege will be continued. If they are not satisfied, the concession will be taken away. The best thing, therefore, is for you to try to develop the Associations as much as you can and to work them on proper lines.

172. ***Construction of a road.***

Mr. Thiru Onam Nal Thampuran spoke of the necessity for constructing a road from the 98th mile-stone on the main central road *via* Mattaseri, Parampuzha, Perur and other places, to join the Ettumanur-Lalam road at the 4th mile.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer says that this is an absolutely new road, about 10 miles in length, and will cost about a lakh of rupees. It will not therefore be possible to take up this road in the near future.

173. ***Church-sites and burial-grounds not to be taxed.***

Mr. W. John requested that church-sites and burial-grounds be exempted from taxation.

Dewan's reply.—The Settlement department appear to have proceeded upon the following principle. In the cases of old churches, temples, burial-grounds and such other places as had been already exempted by special command of His Highness the Maha Raja, the exemption has been continued by the Settlement department. Where no such order of special exemption was forthcoming, taxes have been imposed at the settlement. On these lines, the settlement of the greater portion of the State has been finished. Government cannot now make a deviation and introduce any changes in respect of the few remaining taluks. If any place specially exempted has been assessed wrongly, that may be brought up separately, and Government will enquire about it.

CHANGANACHERI TALUK.

174. ***Improvement of canals. Passing of rules under Irrigation Regulation.***

Mr. Narayana Kurup urged the improvement of the Chalackal, Kuttipuzha and Cheriyil canals, the framing of rules under the Irrigation Regulation and the helping of agriculture in other respects.

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